FIFTY-THIRD SEASON.

Handel and Haydn Society.

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO.

THE WORDS

—OF—

HANDEL'S

MESSIAH,

AS PERFORMED AT THE

BOSTON MUSIC HALL,

On SATURDAY EVENING, Dec. 26, 1868.

PRINCIPAL VOCALISTS.

MISS ANNA S. WHITTEN, MISS ADELAIDE PHILLIPPS,
MR. JAMES WHITNEY, MR. JOHN F. WINCH,

The Full Chorus of the Society, numbering nearly 500 voices, an enlarged Orchestra, and the Great Organ.

B. J. LANG, ORGANIST.

CARL ZERRAHN, CONDUCTOR.

Tickets, with reserved seats, $1.50 *and* $1, *according to location.*

Doors open at 6½: Oratorio commences at 7½ o'clock.

Balch, Printer, 14 Kilby St., Boston.

Handel's Messiah.

PART FIRST.

OVERTURE,.....ORCHESTRA.

REC.—Comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

AIR.—Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

CHORUS.—And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

REC.—Thus saith the Lord of Hosts; Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come; the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

AIR.—But who may abide the day of his coming; and who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire.

CHORUS.—And he shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

REC.—Behold! a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emanuel—God with us.

AIR.—O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain! O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength! lift it up, be not afraid! Say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come; and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

CHORUS.—O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, good tidings to Jerusalem, Arise, say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold! the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

REC.—For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee; and his glory shall be seen upon thee; and the gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

AIR.—The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

CHORUS.—For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful! Counsellor! The mighty God! The Everlasting Father! The Prince of Peace!

PASTORAL SYMPHONY,.....ORCHESTRA.

REC.—There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

And lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them; and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said to them, fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people: for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:—

CHORUS.—Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.

AIR.—Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem, behold, thy King cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Saviour, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Jerusalem, behold, thy King cometh unto thee.

REC.—Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped: then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

AIR.—He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and he shall gather the lambs with his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

AIR.—Come unto him, all ye that labor, come unto him, ye that are heavy laden, and he will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

CHORUS.—His yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

PART SECOND.

CHORUS.—Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world.

AIR.—He was despised and rejected of men: a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.

CHORUS.—Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him.

CHORUS.—And with his stripes we are healed.

CHORUS.—All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

REC.—All they that see him laugh him to scorn; they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying,

CHORUS.—He trusted in God that he would deliver him; let him deliver him if he delight in him.

REC.—Thy rebuke hath broken his heart; he is full of heaviness; he looked for some to have pity on him, but there was no man, neither found he any to comfort him.

AIR.—Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto his sorrow.

REC.—He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgressions of thy people was he stricken.

AIR.—But thou didst not leave his soul in hell, nor didst thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption.

CHORUS.—Lift up your heads, O ye gates! and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord, strong and mighty; the Lord, mighty in battle; the Lord of Hosts; He is the King of Glory.

REC.—Unto which of the Angels said he at any time, Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee.

CHORUS.—Let all the angels of God worship him.

AIR.—How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.

CHORUS.—Their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world.

AIR.—Why do the nations so furiously rage together? why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against his Anointed.

CHORUS.—Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us.

REC.—He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision.

AIR.—Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

CHORUS.—Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdoms of the earth are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever, King of kings, and Lord of lords. Hallelujah.

PART THIRD.

AIR.—I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand in the latter day upon the earth; and though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

QUARTETTE AND CHORUS.—*Quar.* Since by man came death: *Cho.* By man came also the resurrection of the dead. *Quar.* For as in Adam all die: *Cho.* Even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

REC.—Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump.

AIR.—The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

☞ *A slight pause for those who desire to leave the Hall.*

CHORUS.—Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by his blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory and blessing.——Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever.

CHORUS.—Amen! Amen!